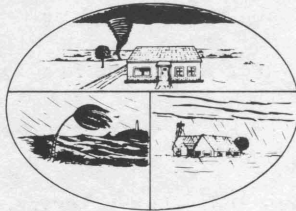


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HOW TO PURIFY EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES

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Hurricanes and floods may cause prolonged failure of utilities including gas, power and water. A source of water in most homes is that stored in the hot water heater. Water from a hot water heater tank can be obtained by opening the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. If there is any question about the safety of water in the city water system (contaminating materials may enter through broken pipes, etc.), turn off the valve between your home and the distribution line. Unless contaminated water has entered the tank, water from the hot water heater should be safe to use. If there is any doubt about the purity of an emergency water supply, use one of the following procedures to purify the water.

Boiling

One of the surest methods is to boil water vigorously 1 to 3 minutes. To improve the taste of the water after it has been boiled, pour it from one clean container to another several times.

Chlorination

Any household bleach solution containing sodium hypochlorite, a chlorine compound, as its only active ingredient can be used to purify water. Bleach solutions with 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite, such as Clorox, Purex*, etc., are most common. The following table shows the amount of 5.25 percent chlorine solution required to purify small quantities of water.

Amount of water	Clear water	Cloudy water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	1/2 teaspoon	1 teaspoon

* Trade names

Add the chlorine solution to the water in any clean container and stir; then let the mixture stand for 30 minutes. After this time the water should have a distinct smell of chlorine. If it does not, repeat the dosage and let the water stand another 15 minutes before using.

Water Purification Tablets

Water purification tablets that release iodine or chlorine can be obtained from drug and sporting goods stores. Follow directions on the package.

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